1	2	3
Sabarkantha	10583	17
Surat	5551	..
Surendranagar	1125	..
The Dangs	182	..
Vadodara	15191	1
Valsad	8372	2
TOTAL	112860	52

Development of indigenous LCA

*175. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) when the work on the indigenous development of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) commenced and by what time it was anticipated to be completed and at what estimated cost;

(b) how much expenditure has been incurred so far on LCA project;

(c) what is the present stage of development of LCA and by when it is expected to be completed and at what cost; and

(d) what are the reasons for the delay and huge cost overruns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The Feasibility Study of LCA commenced in 1983 and the first flight-test was planned in 1990. The preliminary, estimated cost was Rs. 560 crores at the 1982-83 price-level. Government approval for building two technology demonstrators of LCA under Full Scale Engineering Development (FSED)—Phase I, was accorded in April 1993 at a cost of Rs. 2188 crores at the October 1991 price-level.

(b) A sum of Rs. 717 crores has been spent so far.

(c) LCA is now in Phase-I of Full Scale Engineering Development phase Fabrication, assembly and integration of components and sub-systems has commenced. The first flight is planned in June 1996.

(d) The main reasons for the delay are :—

(i) technology gaps arising from the absence of a major aircraft development programme in the period 1960-80.

(ii) inadequate infrastructure.

(iii) delays due to export clearance procedures in procurement of items from abroad.

(iv) revision of development strategy with emphasis on higher indigenous content due to the resource crunch.

The reason for cost overruns are:

(i) general increase due to inflation and change in foreign exchange parity rates.

(ii) change in development strategy.

(iii) build up of infrastructure and test facilities.